

**Royal Holloway, University of London**  
**Programme specification for an undergraduate award**  
**BA Modern and Contemporary History (V140)**

**Section 1 – Introduction to your programme**

This programme specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your programme and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

Your degree programme in Modern and Contemporary History is delivered in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which you must follow courses to the value of 120 credits. The programmes are characterised by clear academic and intellectual progression and by opportunities for specialisation throughout, including the possibility of taking courses offered by other History departments within the University of London. The first stage of the programme provides both a stimulating general introduction and lays the foundations for later, more specialised, study. In stage two, you explore periods and themes of history in greater depth, with the opportunity to undertake guided independent research or study. In the third stage, you follow courses which closely reflect the research interests of members of staff, and also research and write a 10,000 word dissertation, which is seen as the climax of the stage-by-stage training in research techniques, analysis and presentation.

For joint and combined honours programmes, please refer to the programme specification for your secondary department's corresponding single honours programme for further information on educational aims, and learning outcomes.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, programmes and the availability of individual course units, especially optional course units are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

*Degree programme* – Also referred to as 'degree course' or simply 'course', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies.

*Course unit* – Also referred to as 'module', this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree programme. Undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway comprise four full units, or a combination of full and half units, to the value of 120 credits per year. On some degree programmes a certain number of optional course units must be passed for a particular degree title.

Section 2 – Programme details			
Date of specification update	May 2019	Location of study	Egham Campus
Programme award and title	BA Modern and Contemporary History	Level of study	Undergraduate
Programme code	3009	UCAS code	V140
Year of entry	2019/20		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	History	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the programme	N/A
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time or part-time	Duration of the programme	Three years or six years
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A		
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	<a href="https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/">https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/</a>	For queries on admissions:	<a href="mailto:study@royalholloway.ac.uk">study@royalholloway.ac.uk</a> .

Section 3 – Degree programme structure										
3.1 Mandatory course unit information										
The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study										
Year	Course code	Course title	Contact hours*	Self-study hours	Written exams**	Practical assessment**	Coursework**	Credits	FHEQ level	Course status (see below)
1	HS1004	History in the Making	56	244	0%	0%	100%	30	4	MC
2	HS2300	Independent Essay	12	138	0%	0%	100%	15	5	MC
3	HS3160	Concepts in History	20	130	0%	20%	80%	15	6	MC
3	HS3106	Historiography	25	125	50%	0%	50%	15	6	MC
<p>This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory courses on your degree programme. These courses are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree programme will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these courses each year. Mandatory courses fall into two categories; 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.</p> <p>In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) courses, you must pass the course before you can proceed to the next year of your programme, or to successfully graduate with a particular degree title. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) courses, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them. Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree programme may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example; where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and programme requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.</p> <p>*Contact hours come in various different forms, and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff.</p> <p>**The way in which each course on your degree programme is assessed will also vary, however, the assessments listed above are all 'summative', which means you will receive a mark for it which will count towards your overall mark for the course, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the course you will gain the credits listed. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like an essay. Coursework might also include a report, dissertation or portfolio. 'Practical assessments' might include an oral assessment or presentation, or a demonstration of practical skills required for the particular course.</p>										
3.2 Optional course units										

In addition to mandatory course units, there will be a number of optional course units available during the course of your degree. The following table lists a selection of optional course units that are likely to be available. However, not all may be available every year. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example; where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and programme requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection, so it is important that this specification is read alongside your department's Student Handbook, which you can access via their [webpage](#).

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Republics, Kings and People	Modern Political Ideas	Victorian Babylon
Mao to Mandela – 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Leaders	The Islamic Revival	The Holocaust
Conflict and Identity	From Mutiny to Modi	The Clash of Powers and Cultures
	Waging Armageddon	Malcolm X
	Modern Girls	Migration, Identity and Citizenship
	Martin Luther King	Photography, Film and British society
	Awakening China	Age of Terror

### 3.3 Optional course unit requirements

#### Year 1

All students may substitute up to 30 credits of modern foreign language study for an equivalent number of Foundation units at the rate of 15 credits per term, subject to the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies. No student may substitute other courses for more than 30 credits of Foundation study.

In addition students must **also** take **three** Gateway 30 credit courses from the following:

HS1107: Republics, Kings and People (30 credits)

HS1109: Conflict and Identity in Modern Europe, c. 1770 - 2000 (30 credits)

HS1113: Mao to Mandela: Twentieth-Century Leaders of the non-Western World (30 credits)

The current listing of Gateway courses can be found via the History Department's [webpage](#)

#### Year 2

The mandatory course essay is freestanding. The subject of the essay must be outside the direct remit of the various Group 1 and Group 2 taught courses that the student is taking. Work on the essay takes place in Term One and Term Two.

This degree's focus on the modern world means that you, in your selection of second year Group 1 courses, should choose courses whose coverage lies wholly, or at least predominantly, within the twentieth century, or within the accepted guidelines relating to the subject matter relevant to this degree. Lists of appropriate courses are published at the time that course choices are made. Exceptions to this rule can only be made with the written consent of the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

**In addition**, you must take five of the Group 1 15 credit courses. This degree's focus on the modern world means that you, in your selection of second year Group 1 courses, should choose courses whose coverage lies wholly, or at least predominantly, within the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, or within the accepted guidelines relating to the subject matter relevant to this degree. Lists of appropriate courses are published at the time that course choices are made. Exceptions to this rule can only be made with the written consent of the Director of Undergraduate Studies:

In **Term One**, you must take three 'Modern' Group 1 15 credit courses,

In **Term Two**, you must take two Group 1 15 credit courses from 'Basket B' (Modern basket).

The current listing of Group 1 15 credit courses (and their baskets in **Term Two**) can be found via the History Department's [webpage](#).

You must also take one Group 2 (30 credit) from the list of 'Modern' Group 2 options.

### **Year 3**

In addition to the mandatory courses, you must take one 'Modern' Group 3 course (60 credits, comprising taught course (30 credits) and 10,000 word dissertation (30 credits) **and** one modern Group 2 course (30 credits)

This degree's focus on the modern world means that you, in your selection of third year College-based or intercollegiate Group 2 and Group 3 courses, should choose courses whose coverage lies wholly, or at least predominantly, within the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, or within the accepted guidelines relating to the subject matter relevant to this degree. Lists of appropriate courses are published at the time that course choices are made. Exceptions to this rule can only be made with the written consent of the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

The current listing of Group 3 30 credit courses (both the examination courses and the linked dissertations) can be found via the History Department's [webpage](#).

The current listing of Group 2 30 credit courses can be found via the History Department's [webpage](#).

N.B. You may also choose a Group 2 **OR** Group 3 paper taught at other Colleges and Schools of the University of London.

## **Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree programme**

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#).

All first year students on single joint or combined honours programmes offered all or in part by departments or schools in the Faculty of Arts & Social Science are required to pass a Moodle-based writing skills quiz in order to progress into the second year of study. The pass mark for the test is 60%. Certificates of Distinction are awarded to students who achieve at least 80% in the quiz. Students may attempt the quiz as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who meet the requirements for progression as stipulated in the [College's Undergraduate Regulations](#) (Section: Conditions for progression to the next stage) but fail to pass the Moodle-based quiz will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study at the College.

**Part-time study:**

**Year 1:** HS1004 and a gateway option

**Year 2:** Two gateway options

**Year 3:** Four Group 1 options (two in each term)

**Year 4:** Group 2 course (both terms), Group 1 course (term one), HS2300 (term two)

**Year 5:** one 'Modern' Group 3 course (60 credits, comprising taught course (30 credits) and 10,000 word dissertation (30 credits))

**Year 6:** one modern Group 2 course (30 credits) **and** the mandatory course HS3106 Historiography (15 credits, term one) **and** the mandatory course HS3160 Concepts in History (15 credits, term two)

**Modern and Contemporary History with an International Year (4 years)**

**Stage one:**

As Stage one.

**Stage two:**

As Stage two.

**Stage three, part 1 - Extra-curricular year: \*\***

You must take courses at an overseas university nominated through the Erasmus or Student Exchange Programmes. The equivalent of a full academic load at the overseas university must be taken. The courses to be taken overseas are to be agreed with the Tutor for International Studies in History and must accord with the modern emphasis of the degree. The marks achieved are converted into equivalent College marks and count as a thirteenth unit, HS3400. This will contribute 20% to the final stage three marks.

**Stage three, part 2 – Final year in the History Department:**

As Stage three. These courses will contribute 80% to the final stage three marks.

\*\*Students commencing stage three, part 1 on this four year programme will not be permitted to transfer back to one of the three year programmes offered by the Department of History. The Department will give consideration in the case of extreme hardship, documented by extenuating circumstances and supporting material, as it normally would, should you not be able to complete their year abroad.

## Section 5 – Educational aims of the programme

The aims of this programme are:

- to give a sound and extensive basis for the study of History;
- to provide a flexible and progressive structure in which you are able to gain knowledge, understanding and appropriate skills relating to distinctive research specialisms, which provide a firm foundation for postgraduate study and research;
- to develop in you a range of personal attributes relevant to the world beyond higher education, the ability to engage in lifelong learning, to consider ethics and values, and to contribute to the wider community.

**Section 6 - Programme learning outcomes**

**In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (\*))**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the concepts of continuity and change over an extended time span (centring on the Twentieth Century, but not exclusively so) and across more than one society and culture <b>(K)</b>;</li> <li>2. the broad range of historical issues and events and the different approaches that may be employed in understanding or interpreting them (to include political thought, political theory, economic policy and economic history as well as history-specific approaches) <b>(K)</b>;</li> <li>3. the complexity and variety of situations, events and past mentalities <b>(K)</b>;</li> <li>4. the diversity of specialisms in the discipline <b>(K)</b>;</li> <li>5. the significance of cultural, social, economic and political factors in initiating and/or influencing important historical issues and events <b>(K)</b>;</li> <li>6. the role of key individuals, groups and institutions in initiating and/or influencing important historical issues and events <b>(K)</b>;</li> <li>7. the key sources of evidence and methods of enquiry employed in historical research <b>(K)</b>;</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. the ability to understand human behaviour in the context of the past <b>(S)</b>;</li> <li>9. gathering, sifting, organising and interpreting evidence and source material <b>(S)</b>;</li> <li>10. interpretation and evaluation of a variety of historical texts and other source materials <b>(S)</b>;</li> <li>11. construction and use of historical databases <b>(S)</b>;</li> <li>12. the use of social sciences theories, drawn from politics, economics and social policy, to extend the analysis and interpretation of historical events <b>(S)</b>;</li> <li>13. research skills needed to plan and execute a project on a defined topic, and produce a coherent, extended piece of written work <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>14. independent thought and study <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>15. written and oral presentation of arguments and debate <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>16. information technology, including word-processing and conducting on-line searches <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>17. time-management <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>18. ability to work with others and respect their reasoned views <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>19. synthesis and critical analysis of information <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>20. imaginative insight and the ability to propose creative solutions <b>(S*)</b>.</li> </ol>
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**Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment**

Teaching takes place in lectures, large and small seminar groups, and occasionally in one-to-one tutorials. Lectures are primarily used to provide a broad introduction to themes and issues, and to expand your knowledge base (e.g. Foundation and Gateway Courses). Oral presentation skills are developed in small to medium sized groups. The chance to study historical texts occurs throughout the degree, but especially in the third year courses and the dissertation. The dissertation also provides the opportunity for guided independent research. You are introduced to computing skills in the first year introduction to computing courses. As you progress through the programme, you develop a greater depth of knowledge and understanding of your skills in general, through your application and interpretation in particular historical and sub-disciplinary contexts.

Assessment of knowledge, understanding and discipline-specific skills is by formal unseen written examinations, coursework essays and other exercises, oral presentations and the independent dissertation. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#).

**Section 8 – Additional costs**

There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree programme.

**These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree programme at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.**

**Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards**

<b>QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</b>	4-6
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Your programme is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent programmes of study.

<b>QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)</b>	<a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements</a>
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Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of programmes in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.

### Section 10 – Further information

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate when taking full advantage of the learning opportunities that are available. More detailed information on course units, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [Course Catalogue](#). The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

Your programme will be reviewed regularly, both by the university as part of its cyclical quality enhancement processes, and/or by your department or school, who may wish to make improvements to the curriculum, or in response to resource planning. As such, your programme may be revised during the course of your study at Royal Holloway. However, your department or school will take reasonable steps to consult with students via appropriate channels when considering changes. All continuing students will be routinely informed of any significant changes.

### Section 11 – Intermediate exit awards (where available)

You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the programme as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory course units, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.

Award	Criteria	Awarding body
Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE)	Pass in 210 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4 and at least 120 of which must be at or above FHEQ Level 5	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE)	Pass in 120 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College

Section 12 - Associated award(s)	
BA Modern and Contemporary History (3009)	BA Modern and Contemporary History (3009)